

# **Internal Combustion Engine Research at Argonne National Laboratory**

**Raj Sekar**  
**[rsekar@anl.gov](mailto:rsekar@anl.gov)**

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Combustion Engine Collaborative Workshop  
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# Presentation Outline

- Introducing Argonne
- Active engine research programs
- Industrial cogeneration program
- Research on large-bore diesel engine
  - Simultaneous reduction of NOx and PM
  - Evaluation of NOx Catalyst
- Other supporting technologies
- Argonne technologies for ARICE program

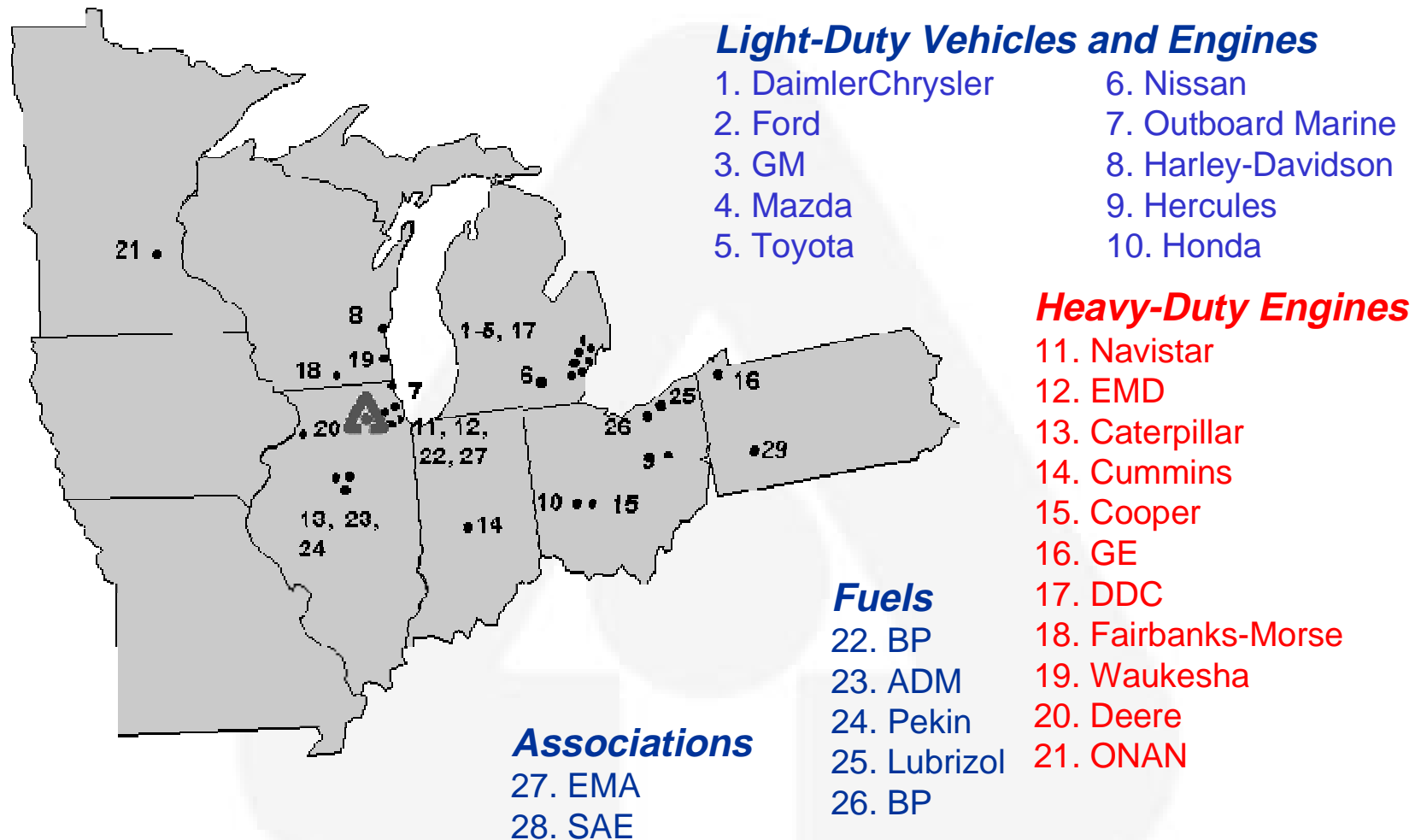
# Argonne Is One of DOE's Largest Research Facilities



- The first national laboratory, chartered in 1946
- Operated by the University of Chicago for the U.S. Department of Energy
- Major research missions include basic science, environmental management, and advanced energy technologies
- About 4,500 employees, including about 1,775 scientists and engineers, of whom 800 hold doctorate degrees
- Since 1990, Argonne has worked with more than 600 companies and numerous federal agencies.

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# Argonne Is Ideally Located in the Heartland of the U.S. Engine Manufacturing Industry

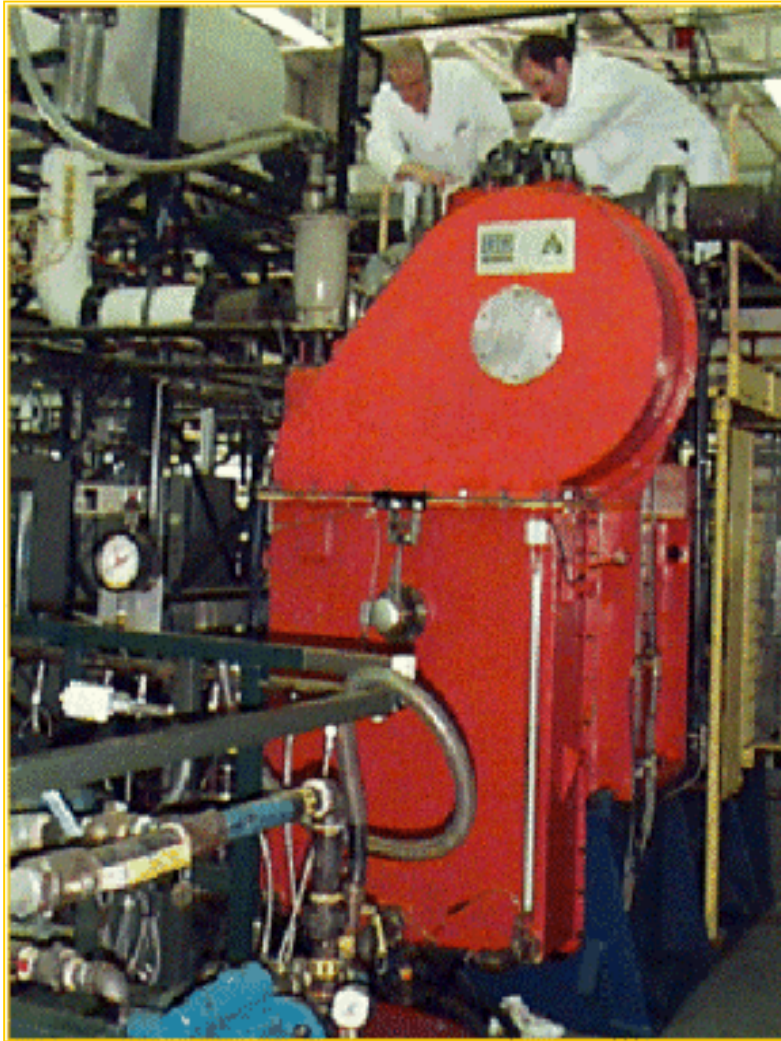


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# Engine Research Has a Focused Mission

- Develop advanced technologies
  - Improve engine fuel consumption
  - Reduce engine-out and tailpipe emissions
  - Improve durability by using advanced materials
- Develop experimental and analytical capabilities
  - Assist engine manufacturers in design decisions
  - Prove the viability of new technologies
- Assist in directing DOE and industry research
  - Industry tech team meetings
  - DOE reviews
  - Professional society meetings

# Integrated Research Facility Tests Engines of Automobile to Locomotive Size

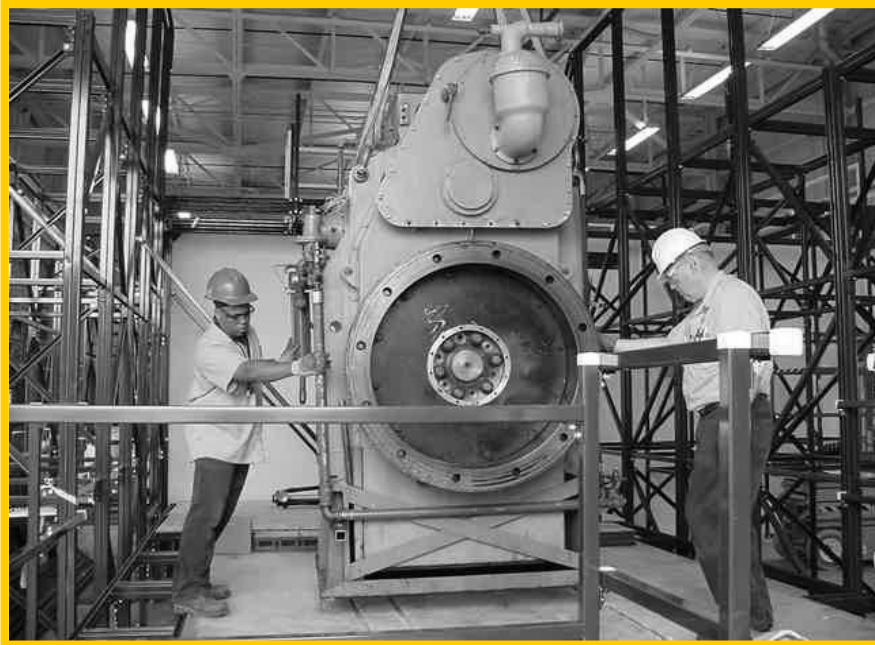


- **Researchers can**
  - Analyze basic design
  - Improve performance and reliability
  - Increase fuel efficiency
  - Reduce exhaust emissions
- **GM's ElectroMotive Division**
  - Major investment at Argonne
  - Interest sparked by Argonne emission control technology
  - Continuing to expand

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# Second Large-Bore Research Engine Being Installed



- Primary objective is in-cylinder emissions control research
- Includes NOx catalyst evaluation
- Operational in September 2001
- Supported by GM-EMD

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# Dedicated Test Cell Available for Heavy-Duty Truck Engine Research

- Part of the integrated test facility
- Latest performance and emissions instrumentation
- Advanced in-cylinder emissions control concepts being evaluated
- Cooperative Research and Development Project
- Funded by DOE's Office of Heavy Vehicle Technologies and Caterpillar



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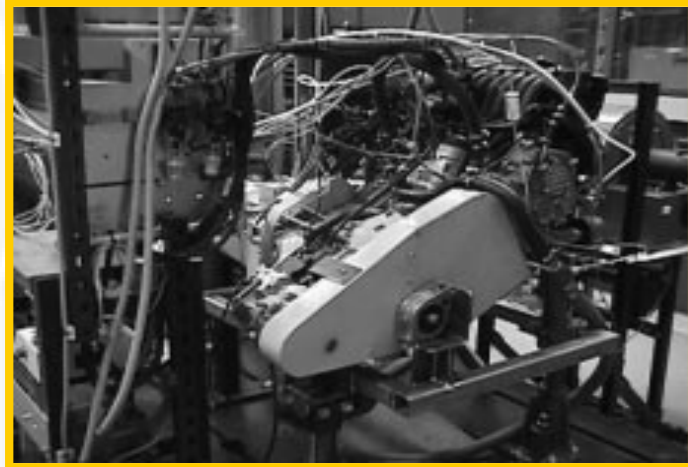
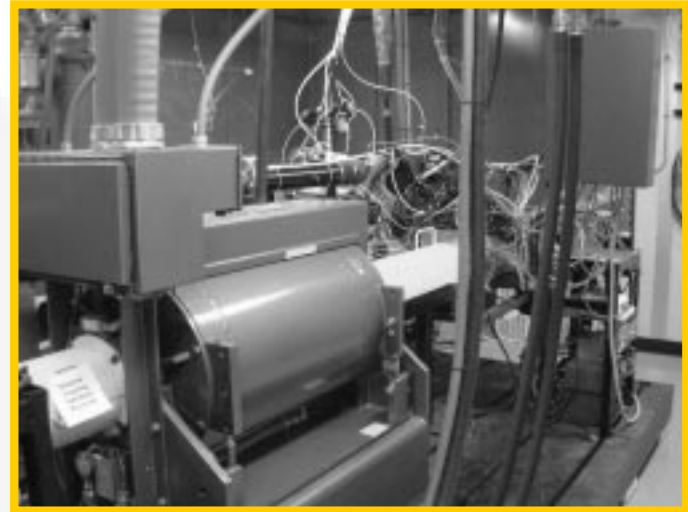
# Argonne Is Developing Advanced Technologies to Reduce Emissions

Argonne's Diesel Program is:

- Systems-driven
- Barrier-focused

Argonne's approach:

- In-cylinder emissions control technologies
- Fuel systems and controls, including spray research
- Real-time, transient emissions measurements



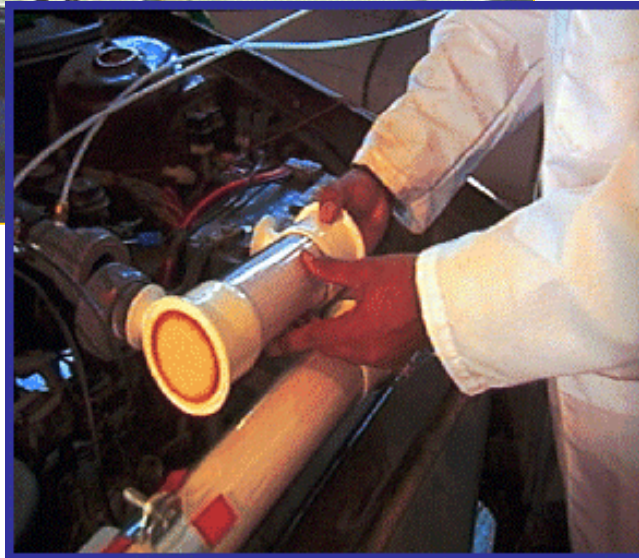
**Mercedes 1.7-Liter Diesel Engine**

**Argonne National Laboratory**

# **Industrial Cogeneration Research Continued for 12 years**

- Oxygen-enriched diesel engine research
  - Computer simulation studies
  - Technical and economic evaluations
  - Experiments for cogeneration applications
- Thermal degradation of organic Rankine cycle fluids
- Investigation of direct wood combustion
- Coal-water slurry diesel injection systems research
- Economic studies of distributed electric power generation

# Control of Engine-Out Emissions by Selectively Modifying Intake Air



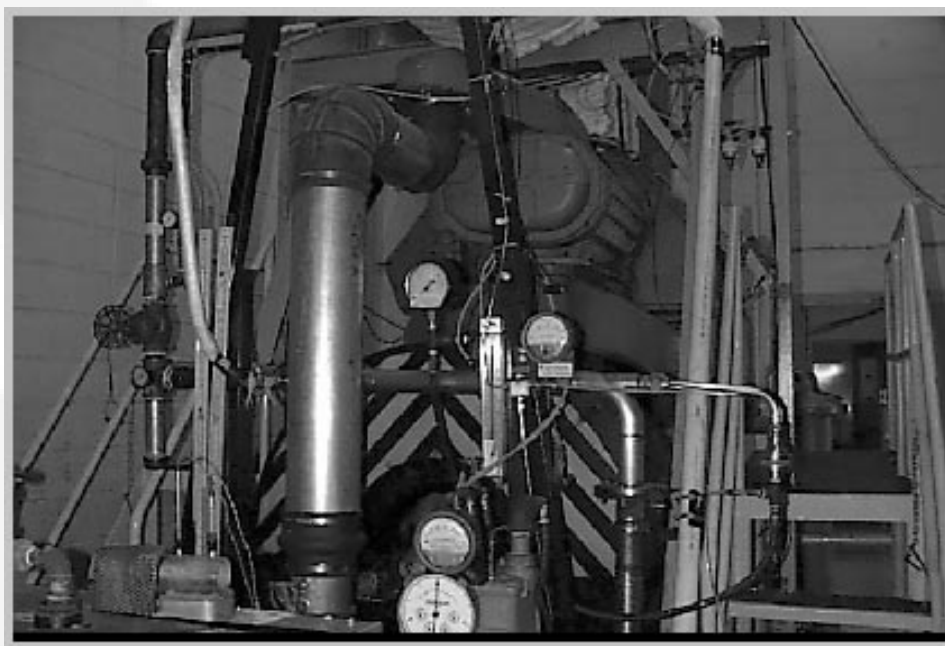
**1999 R&D 100 Award**

- In-cylinder combustion control complements aftertreatment and fuel modifications
- Membrane separates air into oxygen-rich and nitrogen-rich streams for use in engine  
Argonne has a half-dozen patents on engine air composition  
Unique engine research has directly led to industrial collaboration
  - GM ElectroMotive Division
  - Caterpillar
  - Degussa

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# Oxygen-Enriched Intake Air Lowers Locomotive Emissions

- Need to “think out of the box”
- Extensive analytical study preceded engine experiments
- Extensive experimental data obtained with and without NO<sub>x</sub> reduction catalyst
- Supported by DOE/SC-LTR
- CRADA Partners
  - Association of American Railroads
  - GM-EMD

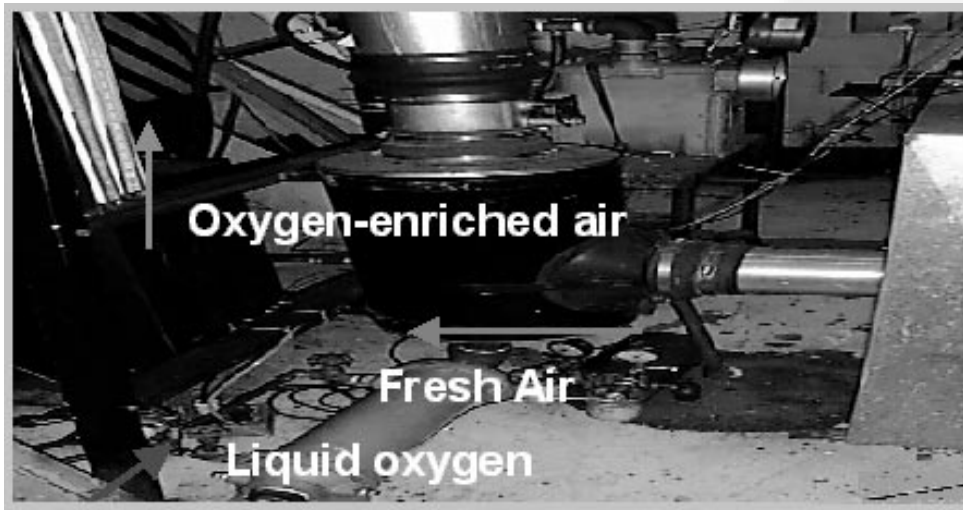


**EMD 2-Cylinder 567-B  
Research Engine**

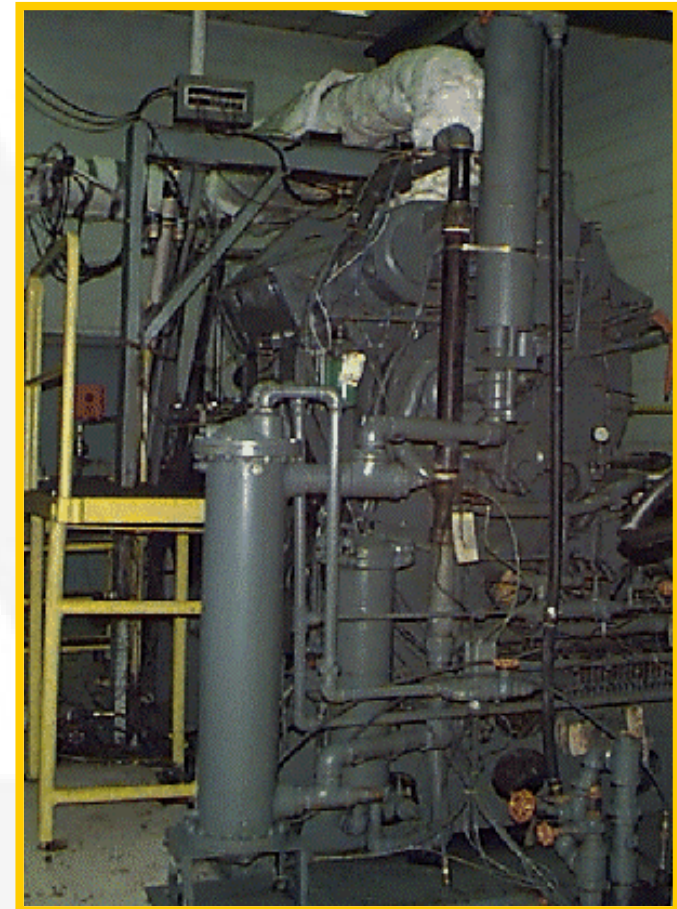
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# Potential for Simultaneous Reduction of $\text{NO}_x$ AND Particulates



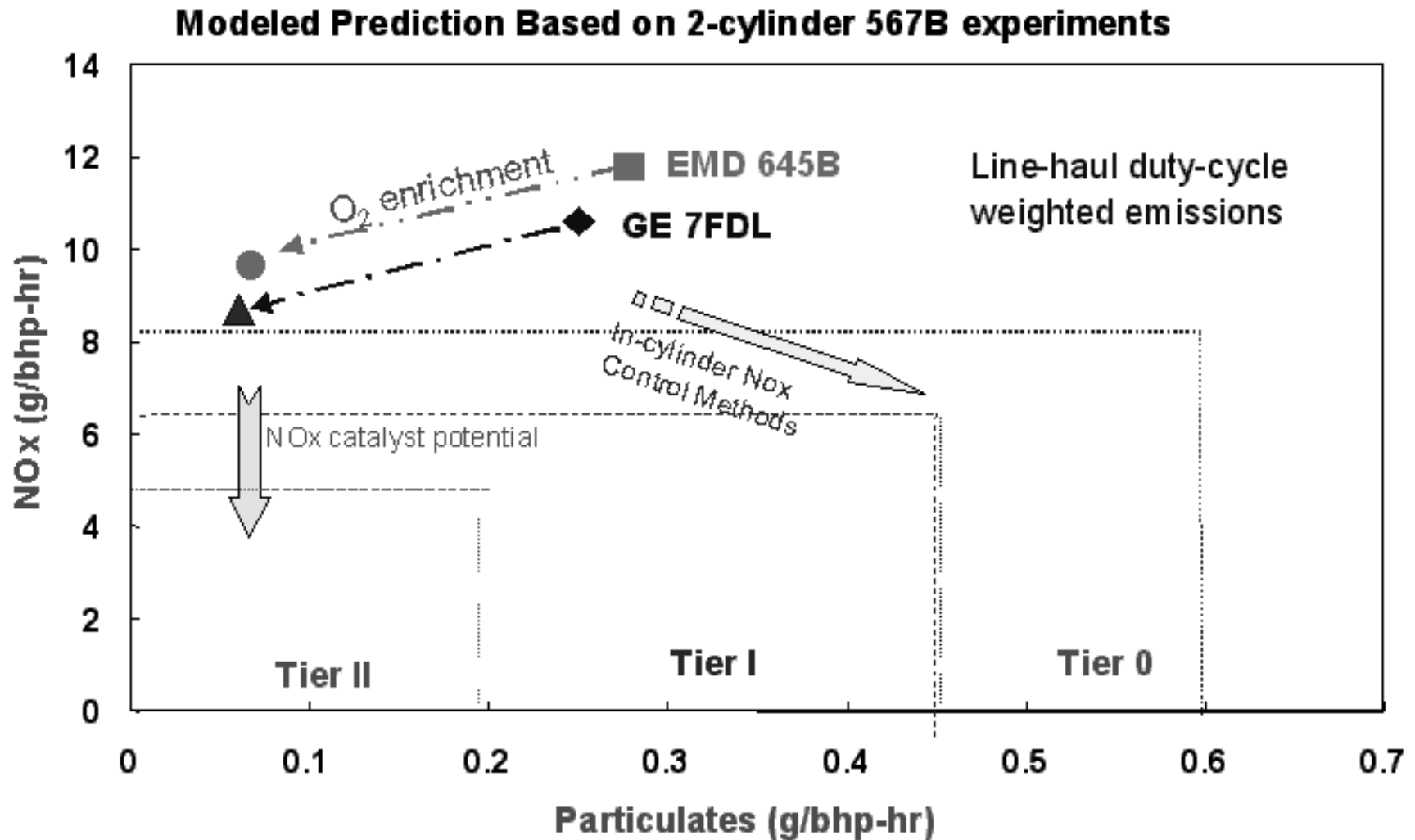
**Intake Air Oxygen-Enrichment System**



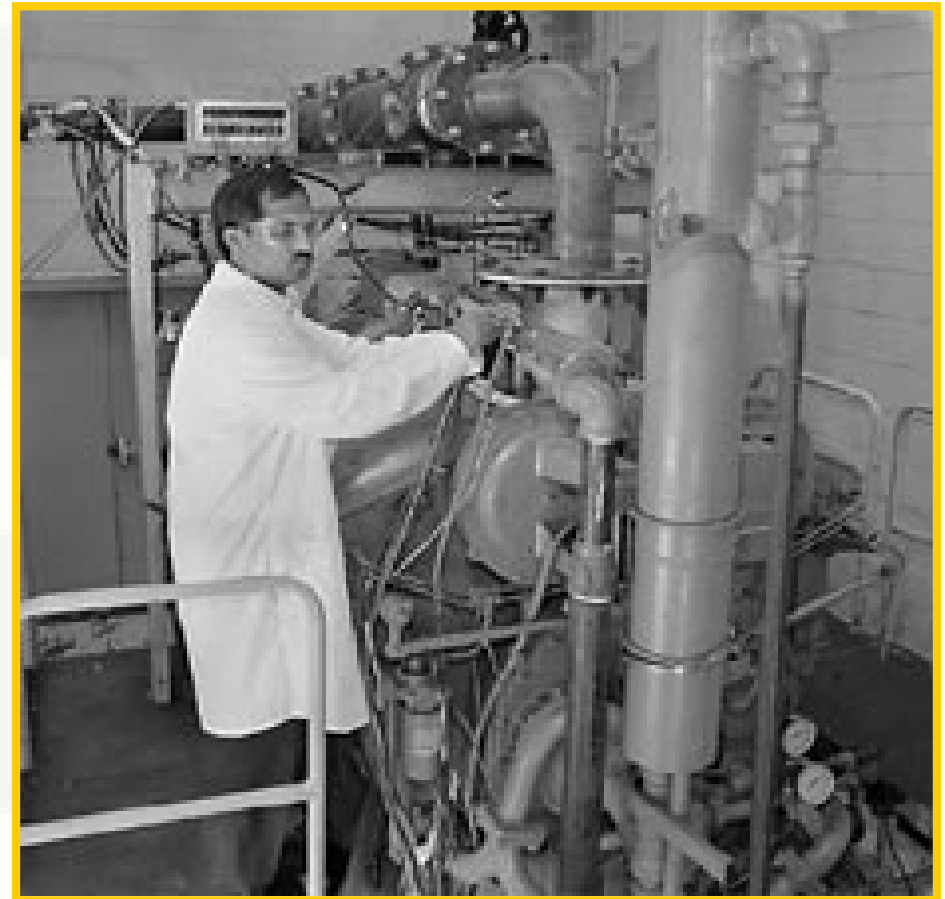
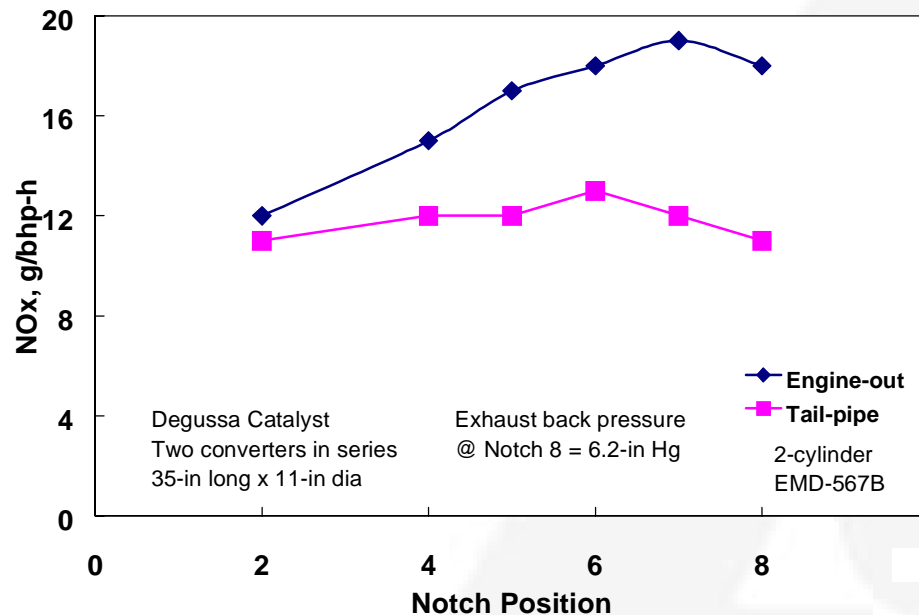
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# O<sub>2</sub> Enrichment Provides Innovative Path to Meet Emissions Standards



# Degussa Catalyst Demonstrates 35% Reduction in NOx



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# Technology Wins R&D 100 Award

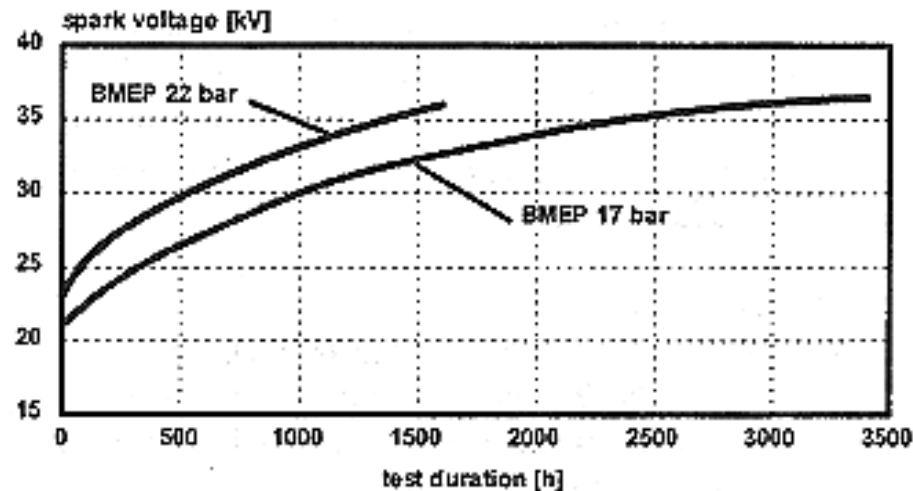
- Argonne patented “Clean Diesel” technology
- Reduces NO<sub>x</sub> and particulate emissions simultaneously



**Energy Secretary Richardson:**  
“...program is a model for  
industry/DOE collaboration.”

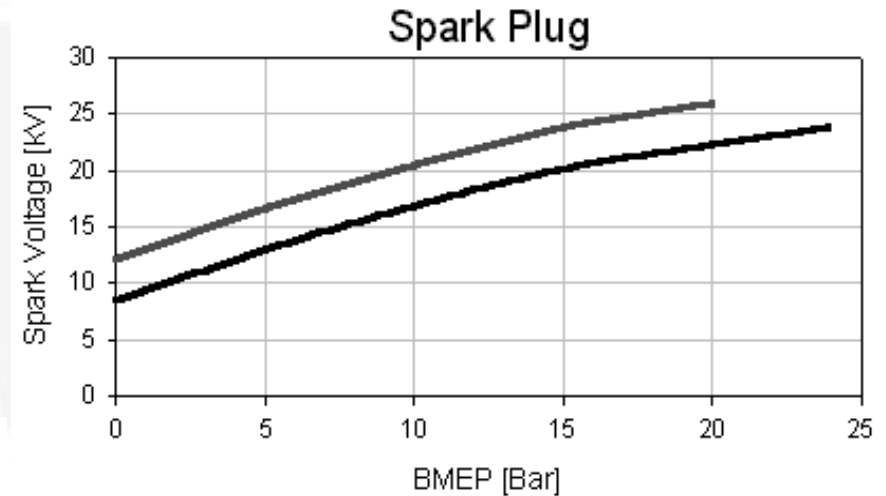
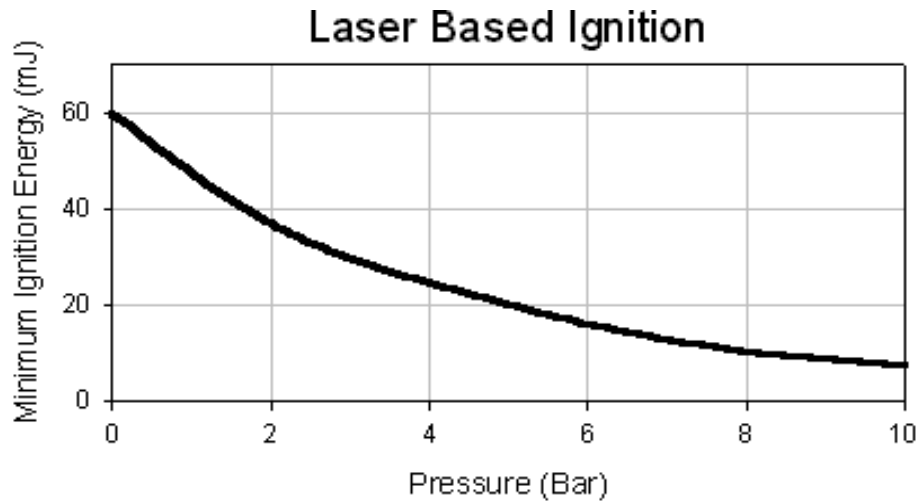
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# Spark Plug Durability Is a Concern for Current Natural Gas Engines



Spark plug electrodes erode over time, and the spark gap needs frequent adjustment. For a spark plug with a 10,000-hr lifetime, the gap needs to be adjusted every 1000-4000 hrs.

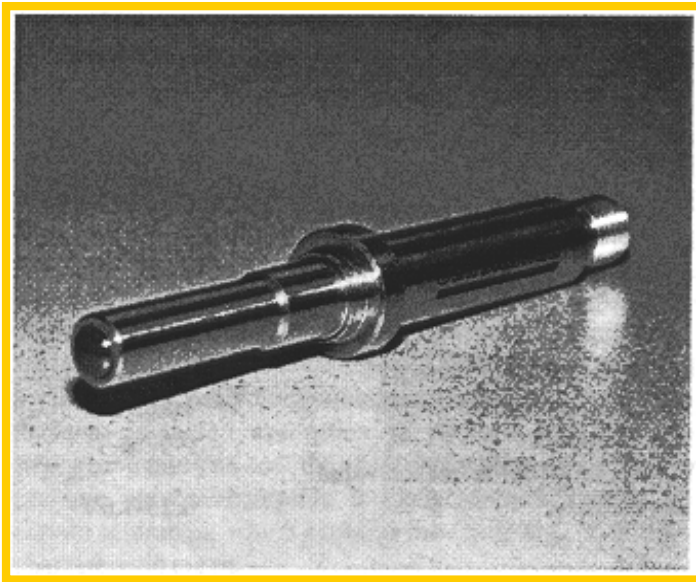
# Laser-Based Ignition Could Solve a Major Problem with Natural Gas Engines



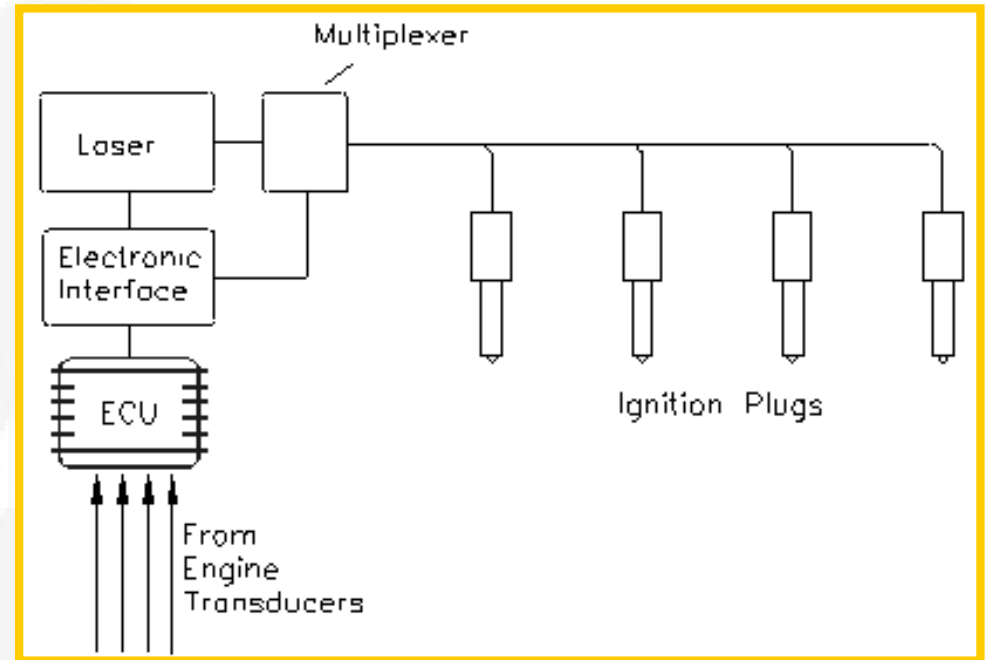
- Minimum ignition energy decreases with increase in pressure.
- The ignition point is away from the walls.
  - Less heat loss to walls enhances overall efficiency.
  - Centrally located ignition kernel results in uniform burning of fuel/air mixture, which could result in lower emissions.
- Ignition kernel surface area can be tailored by optics to extend operation into extremely lean fuel air mixtures.



# Argonne Development Can Increase Efficiency and Lower Emissions



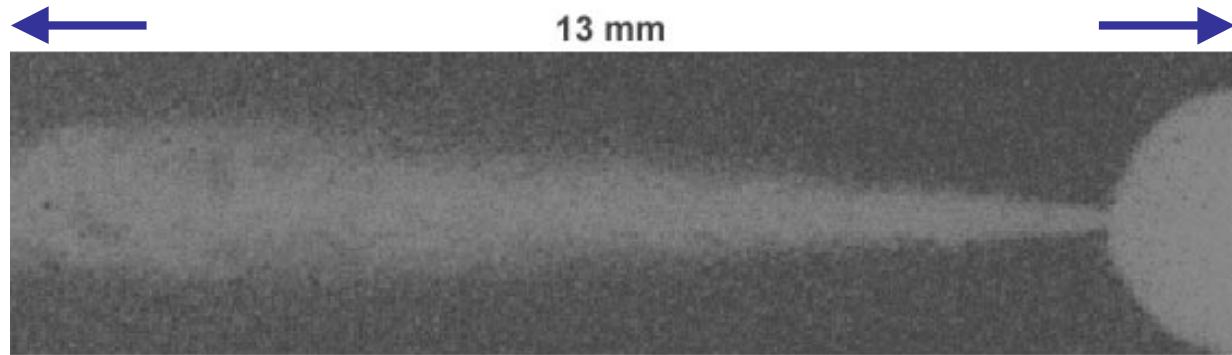
**Prototype Laser Ignition Plug**



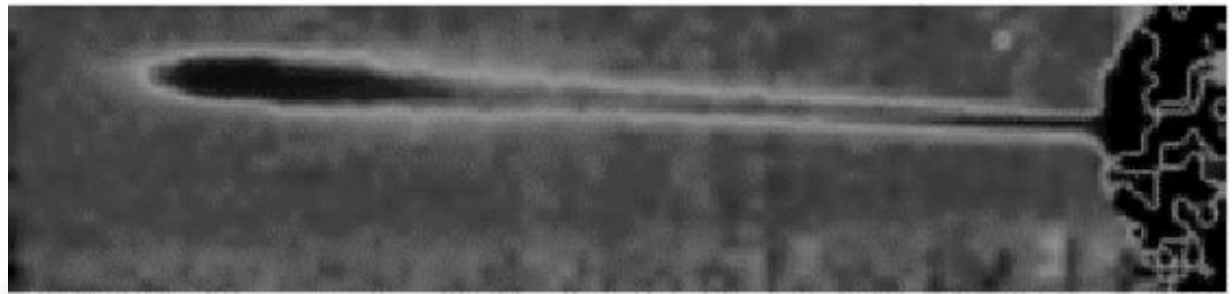
**Prototype Laser Ignition System**

# X-Rays Open a New Paradigm in Engine Research

Visible Light  
Shadow Image

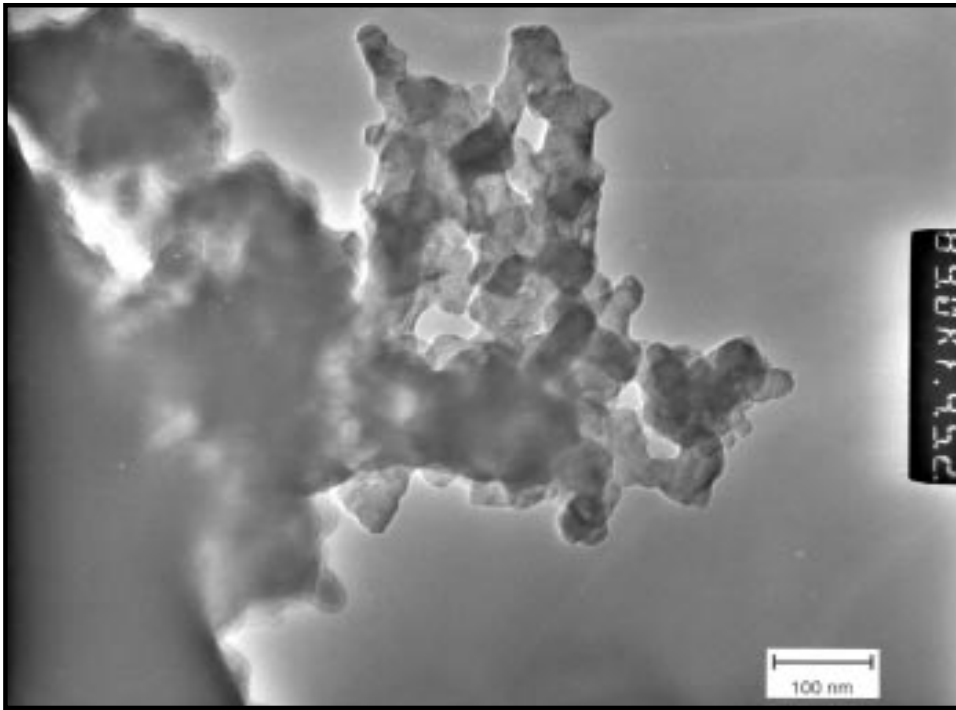


Monochromatic  
Radiograph



- X-rays penetrate the mist surrounding the spray core and reveal a more realistic image of the spray plume structure.
- More than 99% of the fuel mass is concentrated in the spray core, which takes a volume less than 10% of that shown by visible light images.

# Unique Sampling Method Used to Study Soot Morphology



Transmission Electron Microscope Photo

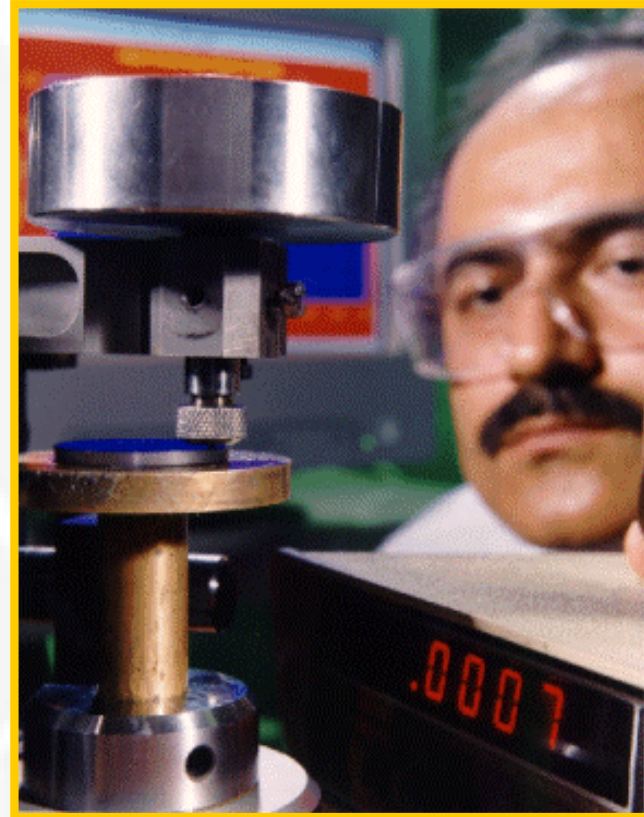
Detailed morphology and chemistry of diesel particulate matter by using thermophoretic sampling

## Research Goals

- Better understanding of diesel particulates
- Develop efficient diesel engines and particulate reduction devices
- Improve public health

# Many Applications for Near-Frictionless Carbon Coatings

- Sliding/rolling/rotating components
  - Fuel injectors
  - Transmissions
  - Turbochargers, etc.
- Excellent adhesion to:
  - Metals
  - Ceramics
  - Plastics
- Industrial interest
  - 3500 inquiries
  - 80 non-disclosure agreements
  - 30 work-for-other projects
  - Commercial scale-up next objective



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# Argonne Technologies Could Benefit California ARICE Program

- Laser-based ignition system
  - Improves reliability and durability of the system
  - Decreases engine down time
- Engine-out emissions reduction by combustion air composition modification
- On-engine evaluation of NO<sub>x</sub> reduction catalysts
- Sensor research for NO<sub>x</sub> and particulates
- Low-friction coatings for engine components